

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 MCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05
SY-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /052 W
-----132029Z 056117 /47

R 131423Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9964

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 2663

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS SHUM AR
SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF RUDOLFO WALSH

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS **DECONTROL**
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): DECONTROL
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

REF: (A) STATE 75066, (B) STATE 77325, (C) BUENOS AIRES 2580

1. A COPY OF THE "OPEN LETTER" FROM RODOLFO WALSH TO THE ARGENTINE JUNTA ARRIVED IN EMBASSY APRIL 11. IT WAS DISPATCHED THROUGH THE REGULAR POSTAL SYSTEM, POSTMARKED APRIL 5, ADDRESSED TO PATRICIA DERIAN AND INCLUDED A COVER LETTER TO MS DERIAN WRITTEN BY THE WALSH FAMILY FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF WALSH ON MARCH 25. EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE COPY OF OPEN LETTER EARLIER AS REPORTED REFTTEL A, NOR HAD ONE BEEN RECEIVED BY UPI AS OF APRIL 11 (REFTTEL B). WALSH'S DISAPPEARANCE HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS BUT NO NEW INFORMATION ON HIS WHEREABOUTS HAS SUBSEQUENTLY COME TO LIGHT.

2. THE WALSH FAMILY LETTER IS STRIDENT AND ACCUSATIVE. ACCORDING TO IT, WALSH DISTRIBUTED HIS "OPEN LETTER" TO THE JUNTA ON MARCH 24 "WITHOUT HOPE OF BEING HEARD BUT SURE OF BEING PERSECUTED" AND WAS KIDNAPPED MARCH 25. IT SAYS HIS HOME IN SAN VICENTE WAS BOMBED AND HIS DIARIES AND CHAPTERS OF HIS MEMOIRS WERE MISSING. THE LETTER DESCRIBES WALSH'S WORLD PRESTIGE AS A POLITICAL AND LITERARY WRITER AND RELATES HIS DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A PUBLISHER FOR HIS INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING ON CLANDESTINE SHOOTINGS IN 1956

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AND LABOR EXPLOITATION IN 1968. (YEARS AGO WALSH PUBLISHED

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"OPERATION MASSACRE," A BOOK ON THE CRUSHING OF THE 1956 PERONIST UPRISING.)

3. WALSH'S FIVE-PAGE SINGLE-SPACED LETTER TO THE JUNTA SPEAKS OF 15,000 DISAPPEARANCE CASES; 10,000 DETAINEES; 4,000 DEAD; CRIMES COMMITTED BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES; AND ECONOMIC IMPOVERISHMENT OF THE ARGENTINE WORKERS. HE IMPLICATES THE CIA WHICH HE SAYS WILL BE REVEALED AS PARTICIPATING IN INTERNAL SECURITY CRIMES BY PROVIDING TRAINING GRANTS FUNNELED THROUGH AID TO CHIEFS OF THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE AND HELPING CREATE ALONG WITH THE ARMY AND GENERAL MENENDEZ THE RIGHT-WING TERRORIST GROUP WHICH REPLACED THE TRIPLE A. THE EMBASSY IS POUCHING A COPY OF THE LETTERS TO DEPARTMENT AND WILL FURTHER EVALUATE WALSH'S ACCUSATIONS. LOCAL PRESS HAS COMMENTED EDITORIALY THAT HIS ABDUCTION MAY HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS (REFTEL C).

4. WALSH IS KNOWN AS FERVENT LEFT-WING PERONIST IDEOLOGUE. HE HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS ON POLITICAL AND LABOR SUBJECTS IN THE PAST BUT HAD APPARENTLY BEEN INACTIVE AS A WRITER FOR SOME TIME UNTIL HIS LETTER TO THE JUNTA. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT JUAN DE ONIS IS NOT IN ARGENTINA AT PRESENT, BUT APPARENTLY SPOKE TO MS. DERIAN ABOUT THIS CASE BEFORE SHE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON. HILL

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